

the Harlem Renaissance. Among the notable writers of this era were Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, and poet James Weldon Johnson. In sports, while fans will remember Jackie Robinson's talents in fielding, hitting, and base running, it was his bravery in breaking the color barrier that paved the way for many great athletes.

In our mutual struggle for civil rights, our Nation has reaped the benefits of dedicated African-Americans. We must never forget the life, message, and many achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose efforts paved the way for the revolutionary legislation of the 1960s. In addition we remember the bravery of Ms. Rosa Parks, who as a young woman, stood to end discrimination on a bus in Alabama and ignited change throughout our Nation.

Our society has come a long way. Today, many African-Americans serve in this body and in the President's Cabinet. President Bush recently stated that "Nobody can understand this country without understanding the African-American experience. It began when America began."

Mr. Speaker, too often, people think of Black History Month as a time for African-Americans to reflect and celebrate their rich history. However, this is a time for us all to recognize the significant contributions of African-Americans, to reflect upon the struggle to end slavery and to extend civil rights to all, and to reinvigorate our efforts to end prejudice throughout our Nation and our world.

I am pleased to join my colleagues and all Americans in expressing appreciation for the contributions African-Americans have made to our Nation this Black History Month.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 335

Whereas the first Black Americans were brought to these shores as early as the 17th century;

Whereas these first Black Americans and subsequent generations were enslaved and brought to America against their free will;

Whereas, despite this enslavement, early Black Americans made significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United States;

Whereas many of these enslaved Black Americans fought and died in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War;

Whereas, despite official and social discrimination, subsequent generations of Black Americans have continued to build on these early contributions and continue to make important advancements in politics, business, culture, education, art, literature, science, and technology;

Whereas Black Americans have worked consistently and arduously to strengthen the Constitutional values of freedom, liberty, and equality;

Whereas Black Americans have disproportionately contributed to protecting the Nation's security and freedom through service in the Armed Forces;

Whereas Black Americans have built many of the Nation's strongest faith-based institutions which serve the Nation's poorest citi-

zens, strengthen the Nation's moral core, and uplift its spirit; and

Whereas the month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates back to 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of Black Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) Congress recognizes the significance of Black History Month, an important time to recognize the contributions of Black Americans in the Nation's history, and encourages the continued celebration of this month to provide an opportunity for all people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and

(2) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the contributions of Black Americans are a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States; and

(B) the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States enriches and strengthens the Nation.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 335.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

COMMENDING THE WINNERS OF THE ROSA PARKS ESSAY CONTEST HELD IN INDIANA'S TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise to commend the six winners of the Rosa Parks Essay Contest held in Indianapolis' Tenth Congressional District conducted by my office in conjunction with the recent movie premier of "Ride to Freedom, the Rosa Parks Story."

I challenged the students of the Indianapolis public schools to write essays discussing the difference Rosa Parks made in the world and the difference they can make in their own lives. This competition was opened to students in grades 6 through 12. The six winners received two tickets to attend the movie premier of the "Ride to Freedom," as well as a replication of the Rosa Parks Congressional Gold Medal.

The winners were selected by my Congressional Youth Caucus: April Johnson and Ashlee Johnson, Arlington high school; Gabrielle Hayes and Alicia Henderson, both eighth grade stu-

dents at the Sidener Learning Community; Heather Sweigart and Tiffany Thompson, both 7th grade students at John Marshall Middle School.

One of the winners wrote, "Rosa Parks is a leader and fighter for her beliefs," and that is what she wants to be. "We must stand up for what is right, no matter what the cost. In the end we will live safer, longer, and better . . ."

Mr. Speaker, I include copies of the essays by the winners for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The essays referred to are as follows:

(By Tiffany Thompson)

Rosa Parks was born in 1913, grew up in Montgomery, Alabama, where racism, segregation, and insults were a daily part of her life. She didn't care so she did it in her own way. For example, she would take the stairs instead of the elevators marked "color" elevators. Rosa grew up in a bad environment that is probably why it became more active in the civil rights movement. Rosa graduated from Alabama State College, and she worked as a housekeeper.

On December 1, 1955 after a long day at work pressing shirts, Parks was too tired to go all the way to the back so she sat in the section where blacks weren't supposed to sit but if a white person wasn't there they could. Parks and three other black women were sitting in the same section. When a white person got on the bus the three women went to the back but Rosa refused because she was too tired of work and racism. Then the Montgomery Boycott started. After refusing to move, Parks was arrested. She could have just paid a fine instead she chose to fight for her rights as well as others, and with the support of her family, she won, she took a stand that America will never forget.

What I am doing to help the community, first of all, at church we are donating shoes, clothes, food, and other things to the shelters and poor people. Second, we are giving money to help the people in New York, who don't have homes and have lost family members. Last, we are helping the community by all the kids who need help and who need families. In conclusion, this is how me and my church are helping the community.

"THE WOMAN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE"

(By Heather Sweigart)

The things that Rosa Parks made a difference in her community. First of all, she was active in the Montgomery Voters League and the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) Youth Council. She was secretary of the Montgomery branch of the NAACP. On the other hand, Rosa also worked as a fundraiser for the NAACP. Rosa founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development in 1987. The institute for self-development was for offering guidance to young blacks. That is how Rosa Parks made a difference.

These are the things that I do to make a difference. First, I help other people and volunteer for things during and after school. Right now at school, I'm helping do the yearbook and newspaper. I'm also helping Mrs. Hastings teach some people how to play volleyball. Most of the time, I'm helping people do math, reading, and s. studies homework. I like to help people by giving them my opinion on how to draw something, too. In conclusion, I volunteer during and after school, I help do yearbook and newspaper, help Mrs. Hastings teach volleyball, help people do different homework papers, and give opinion on drawings, that's how I make a difference.